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THE NATURE OF THINGS

The Nature of Things along with other Conservation interested persons banding together to inform and to correct the unprecedented destruction of our wildlife and wild places.

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Dear federal salmon managers:

I strongly support the removal of the four Lower Snake River Dams (Alternative 4) as described in the Draft Lower Snake River Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I also urge the Federal Caucus to support dam removal in its Fish and Wildlife Recovery Plan for the Columbia Basin. Removing the Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Lower Granite and Little Goose Dams are a necessary and effective first step towards preventing extinction and encouraging recovery of the salmon and steelhead species on the Snake River.

Please consider the following points:

- * Dams Block Salmon Migration - Snake River dams kill salmon by delaying the migration of young salmon to the sea by increasing their exposure to predation and disease and creating obstacles to adult salmon returning to spawn.
- * Science Supports Dam Removal - Studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State and Tribal fisheries agencies and independent scientific committees have all reached the same conclusion -- dam removal must be the cornerstone of the salmon recovery strategy.
- * Dam Removal is Less Costly Than Other Options - Removing the four dams is far less costly than other salmon recovery options, including new restrictions on farmers, loggers and commercial fishermen. Diverting water from farmer's irrigation systems in order to rush young salmon to the sea could cost more than \$1 billion and eliminate more than 6,000 farming jobs.
- * Dam Removal Will Create New Jobs - Experts say that restoring 140 miles of the Lower Snake River to pre-dam conditions would create more than 3,100 recreation-related jobs and generate more than \$200 million in annual economic benefits. Dam removal will also protect farmers, loggers and commercial fisherman.
- * The Benefits Provided by the Dams Can be Replaced - By investing in highways and rail upgrading, reforming irrigation equipment and building new sources of clean power, we can replace the benefits now provided by the dams.

We can not delay any longer! Delay significantly increases the risk of extinction for endangered Snake River salmon, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service. I urge you to recommend dam removal (Alternative 4). The survival of Snake River salmon is of local, regional and national importance and breaching the dams is the most effective solution.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

David Schulze Ted Schulze

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